

CLASSIFICATION **S-E-C-R-E-T**

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Missions of the Gesellschaft fuer Sport und Technik

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. [redacted] a decree of the Political Department of the SED
(Socialist Unity Party), dated 4 January 1955 [redacted]

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2. This decree read as specified in the following copy:

"The ratification of the Paris treaties causes a serious danger to the peaceful peoples in Europe and especially the German nation which results from the rapacious and aggressive militarism in West Germany and West Berlin. This situation calls for careful instruction in the use of arms and military training of the laborers and working farmers of the GDR in the interest of protecting their country and their achievements. It requires that these men keep excellent discipline and be ready at all times for commitment in the defense of this republic. This problem will be solved, first of all, by the Gesellschaft fuer Sport und Technik (Association for Sports and Technique, (GST) in close cooperation with the Party organizations and the organs of the democratic mass organizations. Consequently, the GST will perform the main missions as specified below:

- a. Premilitary training of young workers and working farmers, and sons of the progressive intelligentsia.
- b. Premilitary training of all laborers and working farmers within the DDR in an effort to prepare them for the defense of their country.
- c. Promotion among GST members, laborers and working farmers of general and technical knowledge of military affairs.
- d. Education through widespread oral and written agitation and propaganda of laborers and working farmers for hatred against the warmongers and the enemies of this republic, for love of this country, and for understanding the necessity of armed defense against the aggressive warmongers.

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This plan entails missions for the GST headquarters as specified below:

1. Young workers and working farmers within the area of this republic who are between 17 and 22 years old will receive premilitary training. First-class marksmen will be organized into crews whose activity will be systematically developed to top performance.
2. Young workers and working farmers as well as sons of progressive intelligentsia who, after being discharged from school, are 14 to 18 years old, will, to the widest practicable extent, receive instruction in special fields. Particularly, model construction will be promoted in all fields and model aviation developed. Persons between 14 and 17 years, except those who are in the employ of socialist major plants, will be registered with either the vocational schools of the states or communities or with the MTS stations.
3. Students including young persons among the teachers of high schools, universities and technical schools will receive premilitary training in GST units. The GST will prepare a schedule for organization and training at high schools, universities and technical schools.
4. Laborers and working farmers who are from 20 to 50 years old will particularly receive general pre-military training. They will be trained with all small arms and automatic weapons. Military basic training for all branches of training will be as specified below: Order exercises, technical training with weapons, field training and combat training will be obligatory. All fields will include regular bravery exercises such as table-jumping, high diving, jumping into sand from 2-meter level, obstacle course, etc. For the younger classes, training in swimming will especially be emphasized. Skiing will be particularly developed in the areas of the Thuringian Forest, the Rhoen Mountains, the Kyffhaeuser Range, the Erzgebirge Mountains, and the Elbsandstein Mountains. In an effort to promote mobilisation for defense readiness of the population, long cross-country marches and athletic contests will be held at regular intervals.
 - a. The GST will organize, in cooperation with the FDJ, the cross-country marches for the labor forces of the socialist plants, the MTS, the VE estates and all local departments of the state and economic administration.
 - b. The GST will mobilize, in cooperation with the political departments of the MTS, cooperative farmers and working private farmers for the cross-country marches.
 - c. The vocational schools, under the control of the FDJ, will organize the cross-country marches of young workers who are in the employ of private companies or craftsmen.

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Cross-country marches will be held at least once a month. By late 1955, they will gradually be increased in distance, viz 20 kilometers for women and 40 kilometers for men. Athletic contests will be held in the form of inter-plant-level contests at major plants and MTS districts. For these contests, laborers and working farmers as well as intelligentsia will be mobilized to the widest practicable extent and be spurred to acquire the respective performance badges, particularly in the main fields of training. In order to promote all-around training, multiple-contest performance badges will be created. The GST will control all athletic contests. Particular performances at republic and district level will be held mainly in the form of multiple contests of teams. The GST will control such performances. The execution of these missions calls for an extension of the technical basis of the GST and an utilization by rapid reconditioning of weapons and equipment of the existing facilities. The GST headquarters will submit to the Ministry of the Interior a new schedule which will include a list of all weapons and equipment available and their state of serviceability. This list will also itemize practice equipment and ordnance. The Ministry of the Interior will rush the procurement of supplementary materials required. The GST headquarters will take special action to ensure the observance of legal provisions within the jurisdiction of the GST. The measures to be taken will especially include the fixing of provisions for treatment and use of weapons and training equipment which exclude improper use and guarantee careful maintenance. The secretariats of the respective boards of managers of the GST will control maintenance and repair of all kinds of weapons and training equipment. The entire finance and equipment system of the GST will be controlled by the Ministry of the Interior, with all funds appropriated for certain kinds of use. The GST will uniformly be subsidized from the manager's funds of the plants. The superintendents of the plants shall be bound to aid the GST by placing at its disposal rooms and training implements. Subsidies will be controlled by the Planning and Finance Department. Funds allocated to the GST from the government budget will exclusively be used for the procurement of weapons and equipment. Construction of new parachute towers and special seesaws for pilots' and parachutists' training will be started immediately. At the earliest practicable date, the location and number of towers and special seesaws to be constructed will be reported to the Ministry of the Interior. Such reports will include the target dates for the completion of the individual structures. The GST will supply sketches to the major socialist plants, the city and town councils, and major meetings to enable the same to construct under the control of the GST towers and seesaws on their own initiative from funds raised by themselves. The GST head, in cooperation with the major plants and the country councils, will see to it that target ranges and training grounds required for training are reconditioned or modernized. The initiative of the basic units in the plants, the MTSs, the administrative agencies, etc., will be greatly utilized for the construction and repair of the target ranges and training installations from own resources. On or before ? , the GST headquarters will determine which additional airfields are required and will submit a list of such airfields to the Ministry of the Interior. All legal conditions pertinent

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to the airfields will be determined and shown in annexes and/or statements. Existing airfields estranged from their purpose will be placed at the disposal of the GST in so far as the circumstances will permit such action. The Ministry of National Education will give instructions that, in the evening hours and on Sundays, the schools will be put at the disposal of the GST for instruction. The heads of the Vopo branches must promote GST training by spurring officers and specialists to engage in voluntary off-duty activities as training functionaries. General Stoph will give the orders pertinent to this action. Close cooperation with the German Vopo will be insured with regard to regular ordnance inspection, rush acceptance of target ranges, training grounds and ordnance storerooms, observance of security measures and regulations, and training in the field of dog sports, etc. On their own initiative, the organs of the Vopo main departments will exercise constant guidance and control in their appropriate fields. Twice a year, after the completion of certain training stages, inspection teams of the central board of managers of the GST will inspect the status of training. In 1955, the first training inspection will be held for the first time in August. The GST will control all riding-fan sports activities. Control of professional riding sports such as galloping and trotting races will be left to the Staatliches Komitee for Koerperkultur und Sport (Government Committee for Physical Training and Sports). The GST will assume responsibility for dog-breeding and dog sports. It will organize new dog-sports associations, will take over control of the race (one word missing) and breeding agencies and the technical periodical "Der Hund" (The Dog). General Staimer is appointed head of the GST. The position of First Deputy is newly created. Fulfilment of such missions calls for the support by the entire Party of this action. In an effort to prepare laborers and farmers for the armed defense of this republic, the Party will devote increased attention to the patriotic education of the working classes. The 1st Secretaries of the district and county headquarters of the Party will instruct the Party organizations of the VE plants, the MTSs and the LPGs in educating laborers and working farmers for the hatred against the imperialists so that they engage in preparatory activities for the defense of their country. The whole of the press, motion-picture producers and broadcasting agencies shall take any action desirable in the preliminaries to the defense of this country. The comrades of the public administration and the economic system will fully aid the GST. The comrades of the mass organizations, particularly those in the FDJ and the FDGB, are bound to mobilize by useful political and ideological efforts all members of these organizations for constant improvement in the readiness for defense.

Comment. [redacted] The present decree of the political department forms the base for the particular measures which are mentioned in the reference report. [redacted]

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[redacted] the plants still have to contribute funds for financing the GST. The Ministry of the Interior only bears the cost of ordnance and equipment purchases.

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